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NATIONAL REPORTS OF COUNTRIES ON THEIR POPULATION SITUATION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Status of the national reports exercise

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

SUMMARY

Among the preparatory activities for the International Conference on Population and Development at the national level has been the preparation by each participating country of a national report describing the population situation, policies and programmes of the country concerned, as well as the steps required to reach population goals in each country. The present report describes progress made to date and the preliminary findings of the Conference secretariat.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The International Conference on Population and Development brings together the collective contributions of all the Member States of the United Nations around one of the most important topics of the time. The Conference and the preparatory process will have far-reaching consequences for the world community. Among the most significant outcomes of the preparatory process are the national reports and their by-products.

2. The purpose of the national report exercise was threefold. First, the reports were intended to provide an avenue for the expression of national-level perspectives at the Conference. It was anticipated that the experiences described in the reports would lend pragmatism and realism to the Conference deliberations and declarations.

3. Second, it was envisioned that the national reports would play an important role at the national level by (a) creating a forum for gathering the experiences of the past several decades and reassessing priorities; (b) stimulating the dialogue among policy makers, different levels of government, academics and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector; (c) helping to clarify countries' positions on certain issues; and (d) providing a catalyst for all parties to recommit themselves to population and development objectives and goals.

4. Third, it was anticipated that the national reports could play an important role by allowing countries to exchange experiences and lessons learned on various aspects of population and development.

5. Based on the national reports received to date, it is clear that all three objectives will be realized. For many countries, the reports represent the most comprehensive survey of population and development issues ever assembled; indeed, in many cases, they combine the themes of population and development for the first time. Collectively, the reports represent a wealth of information and experience on the topic, the likes of which have never before been simultaneously assembled. 1/ The experiences, successes and failures outlined in the reports will enrich and deepen Conference debates.

6. The preparation of the national reports has already mobilized national development partners and various levels of government around the Conference themes. Extensive dialogue among different levels of government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and research institutes has often raised national debate on the topic to new levels of understanding. In many cases, new or improved institutions, procedures and systems have resulted that presage improved operational efficiency.

7. Finally, the potential of the reports as a vehicle for the exchange of information and ideas is immense. Many reports express the wish to learn from other country reports, with the most frequently cited issues being: the interrelationships between population, development and the environment; the institutional framework for formulating and implementing population policies; the methodologies for integrating population variables into the planning

process; and how to manage population and environmental concerns in an integrated fashion. Such an exchange of information could be beneficial not only among countries within the same region but also among countries of different regions.

I. PROGRESS REPORT

A. Preparation of the national reports

1. The formulation process

8. The national report exercise was launched by the Secretary-General of the Conference on 3 April 1992 in a letter to all the permanent missions to the United Nations proposing the establishment of national committees for the Conference and the preparation of national reports on population. The guidelines for the preparation of the national reports were sent to Governments through their permanent missions on 10 July 1992. There were two sets of guidelines, one for developed countries and the other for developing countries.

9. The Secretary-General of the Conference, in a third letter to the permanent missions, dated 16 September 1993, reminded countries of the 30 September 1993 deadline for the submission of the national reports to the Conference secretariat and enclosed a set of complementary information forms. The purpose of the forms was to ensure the standardization of certain qualitative and quantitative information, thus facilitating cross-country comparison.

10. In most developing countries, the national reports were prepared by national consultants in conjunction with an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional team of high-level government officials. Frequently, teams took the form of either a national committee for the Conference or a national population council or commission. However, in some cases, national planning agencies or ministries of health and social welfare prepared the reports. In several cases, universities and other research institutes, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and external donors were invited to participate at various stages of the preparation of the report.

11. In most developed countries, the national reports were prepared by a heterogenous group of institutions. In some cases, the main institution involved was either the national preparatory committee for the Conference or the national population council, but just as frequently it was the national statistical office, a university, the development cooperation agency, the ministry of foreign affairs or a combination of those institutions. In a few cases, the preparation of the national report was subcontracted to a non-governmental organization.

2. Reports received

12. As of mid-February 1994, 113 national reports had been received by the Conference secretariat from the following regions:

Regions	Number of reports received
Sub-Saharan Africa	39
North Africa and the Middle East	8
Asia (South, South-East and East)	12
Oceania	13
Latin America and the Caribbean	24
Western Europe (West, North and South)	11
Eastern Europe and CIS	5
North America	1
Total	113

13. A list of these countries appears in annex I to the present report. Sixty-eight of the reports were written in or translated into English. Forty-five reports were received in other languages: 25 in French; 17 in Spanish; 2 in Arabic; and 1 in Russian.

14. The length of the reports received to date varies from 4 to 161 pages, the average length being 40 to 50 pages. Although most of the reports followed the suggested guidelines, a few countries decided to use their own format for the report.

3. Endorsement of the national reports

15. By and large, the reports submitted to date have received high-level endorsement from their respective Governments. Some reports were signed by the head of State or approved by the council of ministers. In a few cases, a summary of the report was adopted in the form of an official declaration of the council of ministers. In many cases, the reports were signed by the minister of planning and/or finance.

4. Complementary information forms

16. To date, 61 countries have completed and returned to the Conference secretariat the complementary information forms. The replies are currently being entered into a computerized database and are serving as a resource base for the preparation of the final synthesis. Once completed, the database will, inter alia, provide a useful tool for monitoring progress made towards reaching the goals and objectives of the Conference.

B. Preparation of the synthesis of the national reports

1. Purpose of the synthesis

17. The national reports are sovereign national documents. The objective of the synthesis is to reflect their collective perspectives. The synthesis will not attempt to restate or expound on the reports themselves; rather it will seek to highlight the most interesting and salient features of the national reports, illustrating the variety and complexity of situations and experiences across countries and regions. At the same time, it will facilitate the exchange of ideas by emphasizing certain topics of particular concern. An outline of the synthesis appears in annex II below.

2. Methodology used to prepare the synthesis

18. The methodology used in the preparation of the synthesis is described below.

(a) Summaries

19. Each national report is analysed and a brief summary of four or five pages is prepared, including a data sheet on the main demographic and socio-economic statistics cited in the report. The summaries attempt to fulfil a dual objective: (a) to capture the most important and interesting aspects of population and development in each country; and (b) to record similar information on a series of fundamental issues, topics and themes across reports. The summaries cover:

(a) Context and characteristics of population and development within the country concerned;

(b) Perception of, and commitment to, population policies, programmes and activities;

(c) Linkages between population, development and the environment;

(d) Population programmes and activities;

(e) Continued relevance of the World Population Plan of Action;

(f) Future trends, priorities, objectives, goals and plans.

20. It should be noted that although the above elements are emphasized in the preparation of the summaries, other important or interesting features that do not fall into any of the above categories are also highlighted in the summaries on an ad hoc basis. The intention is to let the national reports speak for themselves.

21. Once the summaries have been completed, they are analysed in two ways. First, each summary is reviewed in a comprehensive manner with the aim of

extracting information and insights for inclusion in the synthesis. Second, the summaries are analysed horizontally for specific topics and themes.

(b) Horizontal analyses

22. Since there are two separate guidelines for developing and developed countries, two sets of horizontal analyses have been prepared. The topics and themes include the following:

(a) Developing countries. Population growth trends since the 1970s (including developed countries); comprehensive national population policy; national institutional framework for population policy; integration of population concerns into national planning; main population-related concerns; current national population programmes; main constraints to implementing population policies, programmes and activities; and interrelationships between population, development and the environment;

(b) Developed countries (industrial and transitional economies). Population growth trends since the 1970s (including developing countries); population characteristics; main population-related concerns; current population policy areas; and international cooperation.

23. Once the horizontal screening exercise is complete the tabulations are analysed both by region and cross-regionally, and the results are incorporated into the relevant chapters of the synthesis.

II. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF SELECTED HORIZONTAL ANALYSES

24. The present section presents the preliminary results of selected horizontal analyses across national reports. The first analysis, on population growth rate trends, was based on a sample of 14 developed and 50 developing countries, the total sample size being 64 countries. The remaining six analyses were based on another sample of 64 developing countries. 2/ The developing countries have been highlighted in the present preliminary report because their national reports were the first to be received by the Conference secretariat and they were therefore the first to be analysed. The final synthesis will combine analyses of national reports from both developing and developed countries.

25. The following analyses provide quantitative information only; they will be complemented by qualitative descriptions of the topics in the final synthesis, which will highlight topical, regional and subregional characteristics and nuances. Information for the analyses has been extracted exclusively from the national reports, with the exception of the analysis of population growth rate trends, which has also been extracted from the complementary information forms.

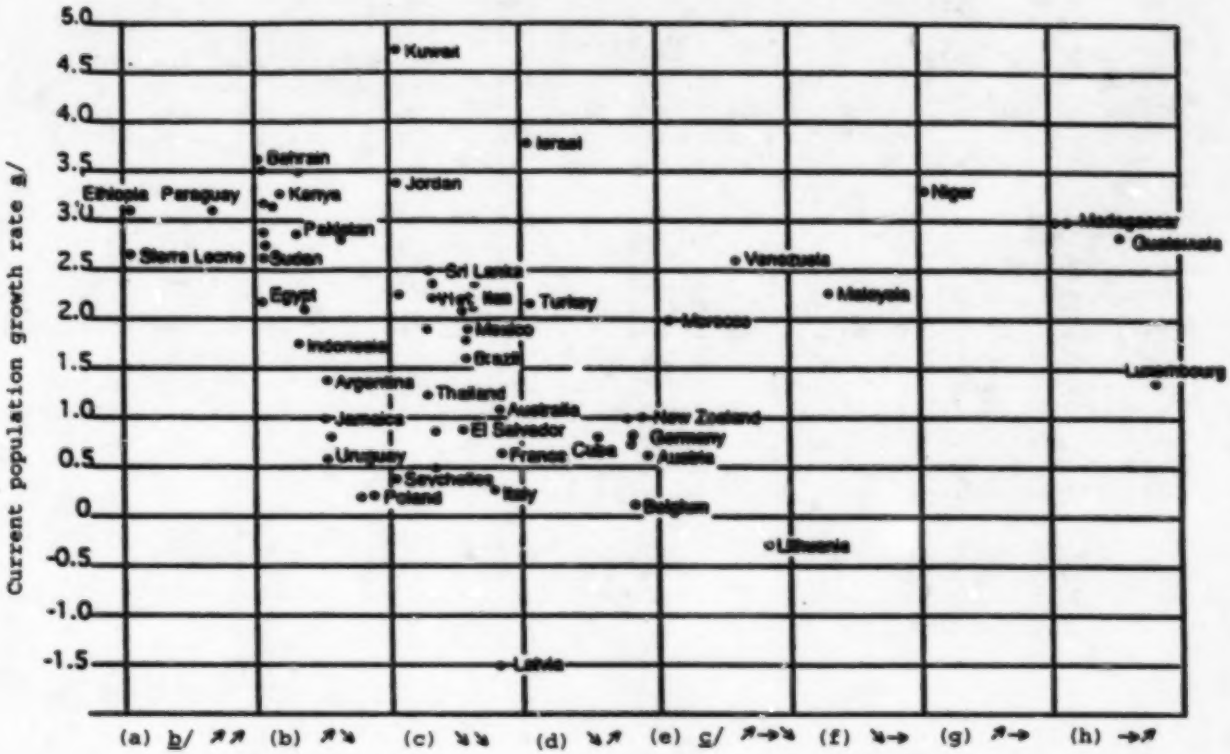
A. Population growth trends since the 1970s

26. Figure I depicts the most recent annual population growth rates for a sample of 64 countries, 3/ including 50 developing and 14 developed countries. The countries have been grouped as follows: Africa and the Middle East; Asia and the Pacific islands; Latin America and the Caribbean; and the industrialized countries. They have subsequently been classified according to whether the annual population growth rate increased, decreased or remained the same between 1970 and 1980, and between 1980 and the early 1990s.

27. Figure I permits the reader to make a preliminary assessment of the demographic situation of a country or group of countries. For example, it indicates those countries that have relatively high annual population growth rates that entered demographic transition either prior to the 1970s or during the 1980s. That information may be useful for countries that are approaching demographic transition and wish to learn from those countries with recent experience. Similarly, figure I indicates those countries that have high annual population growth rates that are still on the rise. Those countries may deserve special attention. In addition, figure I indicates those countries that have similar annual population growth rates but have very different growth rate trends (for example, Pakistan and Guatemala).

28. The six analyses described in subsections II.B to II.G below are based on a sample of 64 developing countries.

Figure I. Population growth rate trends since the 1970s



Eight population growth rate trend combinations between 1970-1980 (first arrow) and 1980-early 1990s (second arrow)

↗ = increase → = the same ↘ = decrease

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a/ Most recent population growth rate as cited in the national report or the complementary information form.

b/ The population growth rates for the countries in this rectangle grew between 1970 and 1980 (first arrow), and also grew between 1980 and the early 1990s (second arrow).

c/ The population growth rates for the countries in this rectangle remained the same between 1970 and 1980 (first arrow), and fell between 1980 and the early 1990s (second arrow).

B. Comprehensive national population policy

29. Forty-two per cent of the reports in the sample stated that their country currently had a comprehensive national population policy. Of the countries that specified when that policy was established, 54 per cent reported that they were established for the first time in the 1990s (of which 69 per cent were set up during 1992 or 1993); 21 per cent were established during the 1980s; and 25 per cent were established in the 1970s (of which half were in South-East Asia).

30. Of those countries that did not report having a comprehensive national population policy, 20 per cent stated that such a policy was currently being formulated. Three per cent of the reports did not clearly state whether or not their country had a comprehensive national population policy.

31. It should be noted that some national reports indicated that their country had a number of separate population policies that were not integrated under the umbrella of a comprehensive national policy. In some cases, it was stated that those policies were well coordinated and had produced successful results. In other cases, they had been neither coordinated nor successful.

32. Furthermore, it should be noted that the comprehensive population policies mentioned above did not always include the same components, because the definition of population is not identical across countries. That subject will be developed in the final synthesis.

C. National institutional framework for population policy

33. The majority of the countries in the sample reported having a central governmental institution responsible for national population policy (73 per cent). Of those, 75 per cent dealt exclusively with population issues (i.e., national population councils, committees or commissions), while the remaining 25 per cent covered either population and development issues (12 per cent), human resource development and health (12 per cent), or other miscellaneous areas (1 per cent).

34. Of the reports that specified which institution was responsible for the population agency, there was a fairly equal distribution between the national planning and/or finance agency, the office of the president or prime minister, the council of ministers or senate, and the health, social affairs and/or employment ministry or department.

35. Of the reports that indicated when the national population agency was established, most had been set up either during the 1990s (50 per cent) or the 1980s (44 per cent). Only a very few had been set up during the 1960s and 1970s (8 per cent). Of the existing agencies established in the 1980s and 1990s, 26 per cent reported having had former population agencies operating in earlier years under different institutional frameworks.

36. Only 9 per cent of the reports in the sample indicated that the central government institutions responsible for population policy had an institutional network reaching down to local levels of the public administration.

D. Integration of population concerns into national planning

37. The majority of the sample countries stated that population concerns and/or variables were integrated into the national planning process (63 per cent), including both qualitative and/or quantitative variables, ranging from cases characterized by successful and systematic methods to cases characterized by little or no success. Of those, 18 per cent reported that population issues were also incorporated into sectoral and line ministry plans. Information on the incorporation of population concerns and variables into local level plans was very sparse.

E. Current national population programmes

38. The content of the national reports enabled the Conference secretariat to study the composition of population-related programmes across countries and regions. It should be noted that that horizontal analysis has captured the substantive areas and target groups of national population-related programmes (see table 1). Although in many cases it can be assumed that mention of a programme implies recognition of a problem or priority by the Government, the corollary is not always the case. For example, a large percentage of countries mentioned the rising numbers of the elderly population and the gradual erosion of traditional family structures as areas of concern; however, in many cases that concern has not yet filtered down into programmes. The results of a screen on main population-related concerns will be included in the final synthesis.

Table 1. Current national population programmes

(Percentage of a sample of 64 national reports from developing countries)

Programmes	Africa	Asia	Oceania	Latin America and the Caribbean	Total
Substantive areas					
MCH/FP a/	100	100	100	84	95
IEC a/	89	73	71	53	73
AIDS/sexually transmitted diseases	63	64	14	42	52
Job creation	11	9	-	16	11
Spatial redistribution/ development	59	64	29	16	44
Structural adjustment programme	44	36	-	26	33
International migration	7	18	29	21	16
Repatriates/refugees	7	-	29	16	11
Target groups					
Women	74	91	71	68	75
Youth and adolescents	48	18	57	16	43
Elderly	15	36	28	16	20

a/ Possible overlap between MCH/FP and IEC programmes.

1. Substantive areas

39. Of the African, Asian and Oceanic countries in the sample, all reported currently having national maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) programmes. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the figure was lower (84 per cent), reflecting several countries in which those programmes have been implemented exclusively by the provincial or regional administration, by non-governmental organizations and/or the private sector. A large percentage of the sample also reported having information, education and communication (IEC) programmes, the regions with the highest and lowest percentages being Africa (89 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (53 per cent) respectively.

Africa and Asia had a greater percentage of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)/sexually transmitted diseases programmes, 63 per cent and 64 per cent respectively, than did Latin America and the Caribbean (42 per cent) and Oceania (14 per cent). Africa and Asia also had the largest percentage of spatial redistribution and spatial development programmes, 59 per cent and 64 per cent respectively.

40. Although many reports cited rising unemployment as a major problem, only 11 per cent of the sample countries stated that they had job-creation programmes. Thirty-three per cent of the countries reported having structural adjustment programmes.

2. Target groups

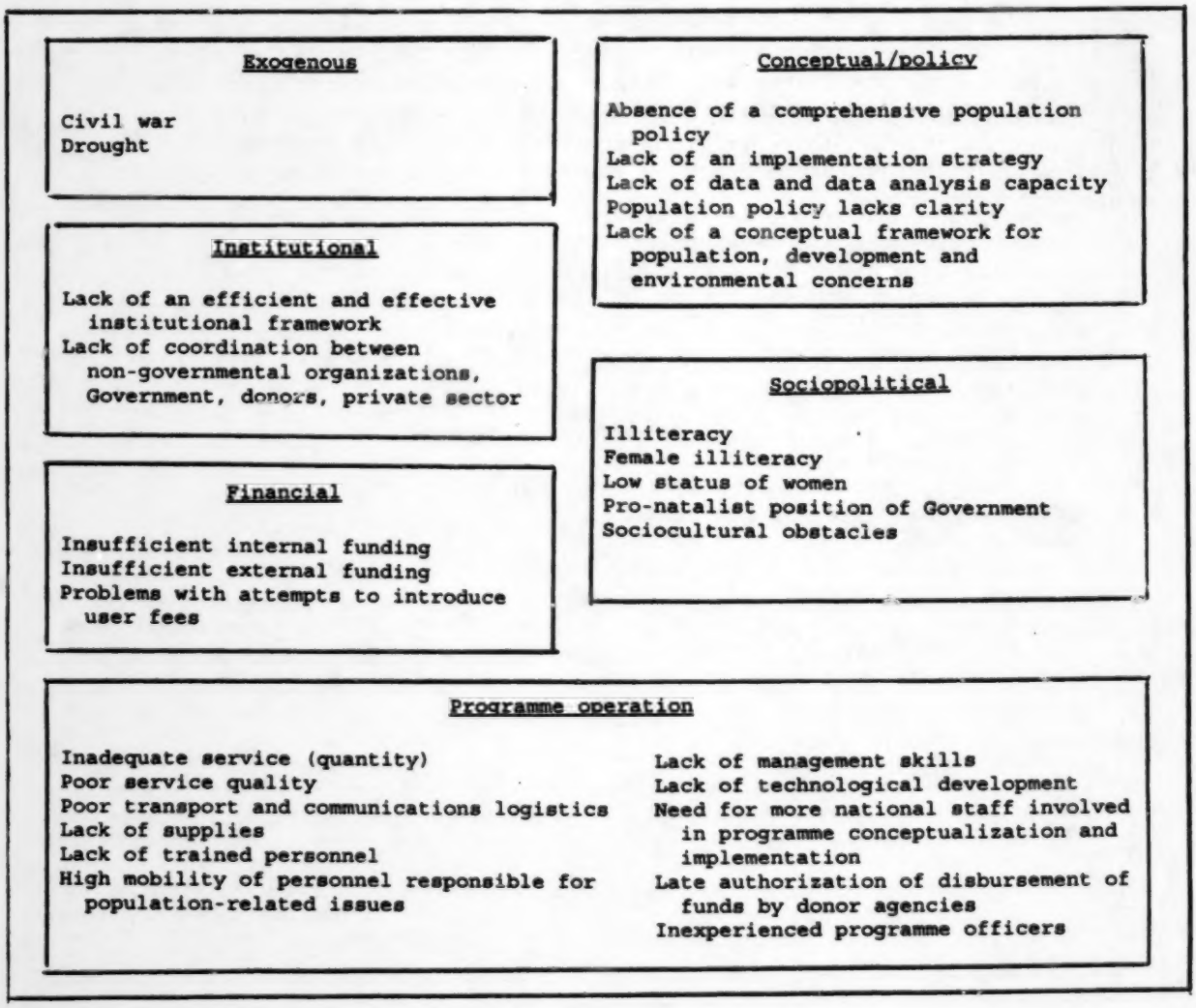
41. Asia reported the largest percentage of women's programmes (91 per cent), with the other regions following at about the 70 per cent mark. The percentage of youth programmes was considerably more significant in Oceania and Africa than it was in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean. Asia also had the largest percentage of programmes for the elderly.

F. Main constraints to implementing population policies, programmes and activities

42. Six main groups of constraints impeding the implementation of population policies, programmes and activities were reported: exogenous; institutional; financial; conceptual/policy-related; socio-political; and programme operations.

43. Figure II illustrates the most frequently cited constraints within the above-mentioned categories.

Figure II. Main constraints to implementing population policies, programmes and activities


Exogenous
Civil war
Drought
Conceptual/policy
Absence of a comprehensive population policy
Lack of an implementation strategy
Lack of data and data analysis capacity
Population policy lacks clarity
Lack of a conceptual framework for population, development and environmental concerns
Institutional
Lack of an efficient and effective institutional framework
Lack of coordination between non-governmental organizations, Government, donors, private sector
Sociopolitical
Illiteracy
Female illiteracy
Low status of women
Pro-natalist position of Government
Sociocultural obstacles
Financial
Insufficient internal funding
Insufficient external funding
Problems with attempts to introduce user fees
Programme operation
Inadequate service (quantity)
Poor service quality
Poor transport and communications logistics
Lack of supplies
Lack of trained personnel
High mobility of personnel responsible for population-related issues
Lack of management skills
Lack of technological development
Need for more national staff involved in programme conceptualization and implementation
Late authorization of disbursement of funds by donor agencies
Inexperienced programme officers

G. The interrelationships between population and development

44. Table 2 illustrates the principal linkages made in the reports between population and development. It does not include all the linkages, nor does it capture the intricate web of interrelationships cited in the reports. Lastly, table 2 does not infer the direction or quality of linkage, nor subsequent linkages when they are linked in a chain. It merely indicates general interrelationships drawn between population and development. The topic of interrelationships between population and development will be dealt with in considerably more depth in the final synthesis.

45. The most commonly reported interrelationship was between population growth and general socio-economic development (7[illegible] per cent). That includes a range of linkages, such as between population growth rates and economic growth rates, and between population growth and living standards, poverty and equity (with causal linkages cited in both directions, as well as circular). It should be noted that when those linkages were drawn, other factors or variables were often associated in the linkage.

46. Other commonly cited interrelationships were attested between: (a) population growth and the social sectors (62 per cent); (b) population growth and unemployment/underemployment (58 per cent); and (c) population growth and environment/land use (52 per cent).

47. A relatively significant percentage of the reports also traced linkages between population distribution and the urban milieu (31 per cent), with Asia featuring prominently (63 per cent), as well as between population distribution and regional inequities (23 per cent). Twenty-two per cent of the reports linked international migration and brain drain, particularly Oceania (71 per cent).

48. It should be noted that environmental linkages have been studied in greater depth in a separate horizontal analysis, the results of which will be merged with the population-development analysis in the final synthesis.

Table 2. Interrelationships between population and development

(Percentage of a sample of 64 national reports)

Interrelationships	Africa	Asia	Oceania	Latin America and the Caribbean	Total
Population growth and					
General socio-economic development a/	81	81	71	63	75
Agricultural food production levels	37	18	14	5	22
Social sectors	74	72	43	47	62
Infrastructure	11	18	-	5	9
Un/underemployment b/	56	81	57	47	58
Environment, land use	56	63	57	37	52
Population distribution and					
Regional inequities	11	27	28	37	23
Natural resources	11	-	-	10	8
Urban milieu	30	63	43	10	31
Social cohesion	15	-	-	-	6
Population structure and					
Production capacity	7	-	28	10	9
Delinquency/crime (youth)	15	-	14	16	13
Unemployment (youths) b/	22	18	14	5	16
Social welfare (elderly)	4	9	14	5	6
International migration and					
Remittances	11	18	71	-	9
Brain drain	4	18	71	31	22
Social unrest (immigration)	7	-	14	16	9
Structural adjustment programmes and					
Health and welfare of population	19	-		10	11

(Footnotes to table 2 on following page)

(Footnotes to table 2)

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a/ Including issues of equity, poverty, living standards and national economic growth.

b/ There may be some overlap between the population growth - un/underemployment linkage and the population structure - youth unemployment linkage; however, since mention of the latter phenomena is significant, it has been kept separate.

III. BUILDING ON THE NATIONAL REPORTS

49. As outlined in section I of the present report, the preparation of the national reports has already produced significant results. Information necessary to assess the past and present situation and to anticipate possible future population and development scenarios has been assembled and analysed; priorities have been reassessed; national awareness has been raised; and channels of communication between institutions and sectors have been forged or enhanced. However, the long-term significance of the national reports will depend on the ability to translate the new ideas, objectives and goals that they describe into action, in line with the programme of action of the Conference.

A. Population policy framework

50. Since all countries do not have the same policy and programme approach to population issues (i.e., some have comprehensive national population policies and others do not, with examples of successes and failures experienced using both approaches), the follow-up to the national report exercise is country-specific. A large number of developing countries without national population policies perceive that as a constraint to the improvement of the quality and efficiency of their population initiatives. In those cases, the national report has served an important function in gathering much of the baseline material necessary for formulating a comprehensive national population policy.

51. In some cases where countries already have a comprehensive national population policy in place, the national report formulation process has raised new and/or controversial issues that have expanded and enlightened conventional positions. New insights and thinking on issues will now need to be incorporated into the existing policy framework and modifications to the national population policy and programmes will need to be made. Some countries have already stated their intention to integrate new elements, such as the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS, the intensification of migration problems, and new understanding of the population-development-environment linkages, into their existing population and development policies.

B. Coordination of development partners

52. Whether or not a country has a comprehensive national population policy, the national report can play a significant role as a reference document for coordinating the work of development partners. For that purpose, it requires high-level endorsement and active promotion from the Government. It should also be widely distributed both locally and abroad to appropriate development partners. In many countries, that is already the case. However, in some countries the report still needs to receive wider distribution and recognition.

C. Implementation strategies

53. For countries that do not already have clear implementation strategies for their population policies and programmes, follow-up to the national report may

focus on implementation issues. The material gathered in the preparation of the national reports can be used to formulate implementation strategies, including ways and means of overcoming operational constraints on various levels, from the national level down to specific programme components. A number of countries stated in their reports that they had already formulated comprehensive implementation strategies. Examples of those strategies could provide ideas and guidance to other countries interested in developing their own implementation strategies.

D. Inter-institutional dialogue

54. In most countries, the preparation of the national report has drawn together diverse groups of institutions and individuals: central government officials and local administrative personnel; academics and practitioners; opposing interest groups; non-governmental organizations; the private sector; and donors. In some cases, new institutions or working groups have been established for this purpose, while in other cases existing institutions have been expanded or enhanced. Regardless of the specific mechanisms used, the preparation of the national reports has played a valuable role as a catalyst for debate among a wide cross-section of individuals and institutions. The forums established for that dialogue should be maintained and enhanced.

55. A significant proportion of implementation problems cited in the national reports can be attributed to conflicts between different viewpoints, ideologies and approaches. By maintaining and enhancing the communication avenues forged during the preparation of the national reports, certain implementation constraints could be mitigated or overcome through improved dialogue.

E. Monitoring

56. The national reports can provide a foundation for monitoring the implementation of population and development objectives and goals, both at the national and international levels. Although most countries already have separate databases for demographic and development indicators, the national report has drawn together those two sets of indicators, usually for the first time.

57. At the national level, with regard to the annual assessment and biennial reporting proposed in the draft programme of action of the Conference, the national reports contain much of the baseline data against which future progress can be measured. They also often indicate the target indicators set for specific years. When they do not, they often provide the necessary information required to establish such target indicators. In addition, the institutions and coordination mechanisms that are established or reinforced during the preparation of the national reports may be further developed for the purposes of national-level monitoring.

58. At the international level, the processing of data and information contained in the national reports will provide useful tools for monitoring the goals and objectives of the Conference at the global level, in two ways: first,

the goals cited in the national reports are being extracted and included in the summaries; second, baseline statistics, both from the reports themselves and from the complementary information forms, are being entered into a computerized database.

F. International information exchange

59. The national reports have provided valuable information for the cross-country exchange of ideas and experiences. Both individual countries and donor agencies stand to benefit from the breadth of experiences described in the national reports, which include population and development strategies, as well as experience in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating population policies and programmes. Many reports have expressed the need for such an exchange of information; ways to facilitate that exchange should be explored.

G. Identification of areas in need of more attention

60. The national reports highlight areas requiring more attention, ranging from further research into specific topics to greater conceptual clarity on policy issues and ways and means of overcoming operational and implementation constraints. That information is of considerable importance at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. At the national level, countries can attempt to focus attention on trying to better understand the problems and issues at hand, as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of policy and programme implementation.

61. At the international level, the identification of areas in need of greater attention takes two main forms. First, the new areas of importance cited in the national reports can form the basis of new fields of research by specialized international organizations. Second, once greater insights into those new areas have been obtained from both national and international research, donors can reassess their activities and priorities in line with national goals and objectives.

Notes

1/ No written national contributions were submitted to the World Population Conference, held in Bucharest in August 1974. At the International Conference on Population, held in Mexico City in August 1984, national leaders submitted two- or three-page statements on the themes of the Conference in relation to their countries.

2/ The sample of 64 developing countries includes countries from the following regions: Africa, including sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East (27); Asia (11); Oceania (7); and Latin America and the Caribbean (19).

3/ Countries were selected based on whether their reports and complementary information forms contained sufficient data for the graph, and whether the summary of the report had been completed by mid-February 1994.

Annex I

COUNTRIES THAT HAD SUBMITTED THEIR NATIONAL REPORTS BY MID-FEBRUARY 1994

Asia (12)

India, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam;

Central and Latin America (17)

Argentina, Brazil, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela;

Caribbean (7)

Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago;

Eastern Europe (5)

Hungary, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation;

Western Europe (11)

Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

Oceania (13)

Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu;

North Africa and the Middle East (8)

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey and Yemen;

Sub-Saharan Africa (39)

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe;

North America (1)

United States of America (draft).

Annex II

OUTLINE OF THE SYNTHESIS OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS

Introduction

The introduction will highlight the significance of the national reports, provide a brief and cursory overview of the formulation process, and indicate the number and languages of reports received by the end of April 1994 (final deadline for inclusion of national reports in the synthesis). The introduction will be similar in format to the introduction of the present report (see paras. 1-7 above).

Chapter 1. Regional analyses of the national reports

Chapter 1 will describe the major population, socio-economic and contextual characteristics (past, present and future) of the different regions. Other general findings of the national report exercise will also be reviewed by region. For heterogeneous regions, subregional analyses will be featured.

Chapter 2. Cross-regional analyses

Chapter 2 will examine the findings of the national report exercise cross-regionally. The objective will be to identify groups of countries that have similar population and development characteristics, concerns and policy approaches, regardless of the region they belong to.

Chapter 3. Commitment to population policies and programmes

Chapter 3 will deal with the commitment to population policies and programmes on the part of Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and donors. The first section will examine the evolution of political commitment to population concerns, as well as its importance, from several angles: the population policy environment, including both explicit and implicit commitment; the planning system; the institutional framework; the regulatory framework; programmes; and budgetary allocations. It will also discuss the topic of commitment at the central, regional and local levels, whenever possible.

The second section will deal with private-sector involvement; it will look at cases in which the private sector has played a significant role in the implementation of population programmes, with the aim of identifying the circumstances that contributed to their success.

The third section will describe the contribution of non-governmental organizations, particularly with regard to local-level and community initiatives. The collaborative arrangements between non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions will be studied with the aim of highlighting the principal factors contributing to successful cooperation. Special cases where non-governmental organizations have taken a leading role, particularly in implementing MCH/FP programmes, will also be highlighted.

The fourth and final section will examine donor assistance, past and present. It will feature the donor perspective on successes and constraints and will identify donors' priority areas.

Chapter 4. Population, development and the environment

The first section will examine the interrelationships between population, development and environment, as described in the national reports. The different types and depths of the interlinkages identified, as well as the main resultant problems and attempted solutions, will be described. The second section will deal with the integration of population concerns in the national planning process; it will examine how that integration has evolved, as well as the different methodologies used and their results.

Chapter 5. Morbidity, mortality, fertility and reproductive health

Chapter 5 will be divided into three sections, on the subjects of: (a) health; (b) fertility and reproductive health; and (c) the interlinkages between health and fertility. The first two sections will focus on the past, current and projected future situation concerning infant, child and maternal morbidity and mortality; the overall health status of the population; and fertility trends in the different parts of the world. The second part of each of the first two sections will analyse the policies, legislation, strategies and programmes that have been developed over the years to influence mortality rates, fertility levels and the overall health status of the population. In particular, factors that can be attributed to successes, as well as constraints encountered, will be analysed. In the section on health, special reference will be made to the policies and programmes that have been developed in response to the AIDS pandemic.

The third section, on the interlinkages between health and fertility, will examine the rationale as well as the strategies that have been developed in countries for the integration of MCH/FP initiatives. Also, an attempt will be made to describe the impact of countries' overall economic situation on health and family planning programmes and the perceived interlinkages between poverty, health and fertility.

Chapter 6. The role and status of women

The first section will describe the role and status of women, as outlined in the reports. It will examine the perceived implications of the role of women in society, as well as women's health, education, employment opportunities and access to credit.

The second section will concentrate on the specific policies and programmes that have been developed in different countries to improve the overall status and condition of women in society. The legislative and institutional arrangements that have been established will also be taken into account.

Chapter 7. Age structure and its consequences

Chapter 7 will be divided into two sections to cover the two major age groups of special concern: youth and the elderly. Both sections will focus on the perceived consequences of a population's age structure vis-à-vis social services, infrastructure, production and employment, social security and pensions. The second part of each section will describe the policies and programmes that have been developed to address the challenges at hand.

Chapter 8. Spatial distribution and internal migration

Chapter 8 will be divided into two sections, on the subjects of: (a) urbanization; and (b) other internal migration. The section on urbanization will describe the scope and magnitude of rural-urban migration and its impact on urban development, i.e., services and infrastructure, as well as the general well-being of urban populations. Different types of rural-urban migration policies and their results will also be reviewed. In addition, the issue of urban unemployment, especially among youth, will be given special attention.

The section on internal migration will describe the different types of internal migration taking place in various parts of the world. It will examine the rationale for internal migration (migrants' perspectives) as well as the rationale for and objectives of redistribution policies (Governments' perspectives), as described in the national reports. It will also outline the different types of redistribution policies and the perceived successes and constraints related to their implementation.

Chapter 9. International migration and refugees

The first section, after describing the various categories of international migrants, will review the different types of international migratory flows (temporary versus permanent; cross-border versus cross-continent etc.).

The second section will deal mainly with the causes and consequences of international migration. It will look at the economic and population-related causes and consequences (migrants' perspectives), as well as the different perspectives of countries of origin versus receiving countries (Governments' perspectives). The different policies and programmes of both countries of origin and receiving countries will also be reviewed.

Chapter 10. Future directions

The first section will review the main population and development objectives and goals outlined in the national reports, as well as the policies, plans, programmes and funding necessary for their implementation. It will also discuss the issue of international cooperation from the perspective of both developing and developed countries.

The second section will focus on implementation strategies; it will attempt to bring together the collective experience of all countries in overcoming operational constraints, as described in the national reports.

The third section will deal with the follow-up to the national report exercise.

Annex I will list countries that submitted their national reports in time for inclusion in the synthesis (i.e., received by the Conference secretariat by the end of April 1994).

Annex II will possibly present the complementary information forms data, provided that enough information is received by the time the synthesis has to be finalized.

Annex III will possibly provide a selected number of horizontal analysis tables.